

and more effective preparations without any critical discussion to indicate relative values. The physician without special training or experience could well be led astray. An extensive bibliography is given at the end of each chapter, but unfortunately a few errors are apparent. The discussion on antithyroid substances is principally on thiouracil. Very little space is given to propylthiouracil which is now acknowledged to be considerably safer and more effective and is much more generally used. The data that are given seem to have been added as an afterthought.

The recent work on ACTH and Compound E in arthritis and other diseases is not mentioned.

In general, the book is interesting reading for an endocrinologist and would be an addition to the library of anyone particularly interested in this field. Its value to the practicing physician without training and experience in endocrinology is doubtful.

* * *

AIR POLLUTION IN DONORA, PA. Epidemiology of the Unusual Smog Episode of October, 1948. Preliminary Report. Public Health Bulletin No. 306. Federal Security Agency. Public Health Service, 1949.

In October 1948 the small mill town of Donora, Pennsylvania, was smothered for three days with unprecedented smog. Twenty persons allegedly died as a result of the pollutants in the atmosphere and some several hundred more were affected. Various agencies were called into the area to study the cause and effect of the smog, among which was the United States Public Health Service. Public Health Bulletin No. 306 is the published data of a five-month study by this group.

This exceedingly attractive publication is about the size of *Fortune*. There are short introductions, etc., by Oscar Ewing, administrator of the United States Public Health Service, as well as by Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele, James G. Townsend, chief, Division of Industrial Hygiene, and his assistant, J. J. Bloomfield. Some 37 individuals have contributed to the research activities, as well as to the publication of the bulletin.

Bulletin 306 is well illustrated with photographs, reproductions of chest films, microphotographs of pathological slides, drawings, graphs, tables, etc. The work is divided into the following: (1) Introduction, (2) Biological Studies, (3) Atmospheric Studies, (4) Discussion of Cause of the Episode and (5) Summary and Recommendations. Certain members of the team were assigned to a community and house-to-house survey in which the inhabitants were questioned as to their reactions at the time of the smog episode. The practical application of such a statistical study is to be questioned.

Unfortunately, no samples of the air were obtained during the episode, so that the concentration of contaminants in the atmosphere at that time could not be determined. Later studies of the industrial operations and stack output in the valley indicated that the single most significant material polluting the air was sulfur dioxide. It was felt, however, that "it was doubtful that either sulfur dioxide or sulfur trioxide, acting individually or together, reached levels that were capable of producing the syndrome."

Over 90 per cent of the persons affected complained of upper or lower respiratory symptoms. Most of the severe cases and all of the deaths occurred in the older age groups, among individuals with preexisting pulmonary or cardiac pathology. Autopsied cases showed acute pathology primarily in the "terminal bronchi, the bronchioles and the pulmonary parenchyma."

It is the opinion of the United States Public Health Service that "while no single substance was responsible for the October 1948 episode, the syndrome could have been produced by a combination, or summation of the action, of two or more of the contaminants."

HANDBOOK OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES. By John L. Kantor, M.D., Late Associate Professor of Medicine, and Anthony M. Kasich, M.D., Lecturer in Medicine, both at Columbia University. Second Edition. Illustrated. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1949. \$11.00.

Dr. Kasich has done a commendable job of enlarging and bringing up to date Dr. Kantor's earlier, smaller "Synopsis of Digestive Diseases." The result is a practical, clinical volume in which the disease entities are separated in the usual textbook fashion. The illustrations are numerous and to the point. The approach to the subject is from a sound physiological point of view. The fundamental aspects of digestive diseases are presented concisely.

The book gives the general practitioner, surgeon, or internist a good source of up-to-date information on gastrointestinal diseases—better and more pointed than that which he will find in a general text on the practice of medicine. It is highly recommended.

* * *

BRUCELLOSIS (UNDULANT FEVER) Clinical and Subclinical. By Harold J. Harris, M.D., F.A.C.P., with the assistance of Blanche L. Stevenson, R.N. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., 1950. \$10.00.

This handsome monograph of some 600 pages tells about all there is to know on the subject of brucellosis. History, etiology, pathology, the various clinical features of acute and chronic brucellosis, are all thoroughly discussed. Under therapy even the recent results with aureomycin are included. There are many good illustrations, a large bibliography and an index. The volume does not lend itself to detailed review but seems definitive to date as a reference work.

* * *

NUTRITIONAL DATA. Compiled by Harold A. Wooster, Jr., and Fred C. Blanck. Published by the H. J. Heinz Company, P. O. Box 57, Pittsburgh, Pa.

This brochure, which may be had gratis for the asking, is a truly remarkable compendium and collection of the important data on dietetics, nutrition and the biochemistry of food and food products. It contains an excellent epitome of the vitamins, including the signs and symptoms of their deficiency, and their dietary sources. The text dealing with the essential mineral elements is the most comprehensive and intelligible presentation of the subject available. The dietary sources of the mineral-rich foods makes this section unusually practical.

The section dealing with the essential amino acids is amazingly well presented and terse. The material is condensed in the form of tables which epitomize those foods rich in the essential amino acids. There is a short section which deals with the practical chemical tests for the detection of malnutrition, which is followed by tables indicating the cardinal features of nutritional anemias, and deficiency diseases of the epithelium. For the person trained in biochemistry, the latest information concerning the intermediate metabolism of the carbohydrates, fats, and nitrogen compounds is given along with a discussion of the enzymes involved in digestion. The last half of the volume contains charts of the recommended daily dietary requirements followed by a synoptic section dealing with diet in health and disease.

One of the most valuable features of the volume is the extensive collection of tables giving the composition and the nutritive value of foods according to dietetic groupings. This section is invaluable to the practicing physician. And for those who wish to use prepared or canned foods, there is appended the analysis of all available products of the Heinz Company. The volume is highly recommended as a valuable addition to the physician's ready reference library.